

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

MURRAY A. A. MURPHY,

Petitioner-Appellant,

vs.

LOUIS S. NELSON, Warden,
California State Prison, Tamal,
California,

Respondent-Appellee.

NO. 22686

BRIEF OF APPELLEE

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vs.
DUIS S. NELSON, Warden,
California State Prison, Tamal,
California,
Respondent.

NO. 22686

BRIEF OF APPELLEE

JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction of this Court to entertain this appeal from the District Court's denial of appellant's petition for a writ of habeas corpus is conferred by Title 28, United States Code section 2253, which makes a final order in a habeas corpus proceeding reviewable in the Court of Appeals when a certificate of probable cause has issued.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

A. Proceedings in the State Courts.

Appellant, Murray A. A. Murphy, was convicted after trial in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San Mateo of burglary on September 11, 1963, and was granted probation. On May 19, 1965, he was convicted upon a plea of guilty of possession of marijuana and being a felon in possession of a weapon. Criminal proceedings in that matter were suspended and appellant was remanded to the

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California Rehabilitation Center for treatment of his narcotics addiction problem. The director of that institution found him to be unfit for treatment and on January 6, 1966, he was sentenced to a term of one to ten years upon his narcotics conviction and not to exceed fifteen years for being a felon in possession of a weapon conviction. The following day probation was revoked on his earlier burglary conviction and he was sentenced to a term of five years to life. All of these sentences were made concurrent.

Appellant filed notices of appeal to the California Court of Appeal from all of these convictions. Since the notice of appeal from his burglary conviction was almost three years late appellant applied for, and was granted, relief under California Rules of Court 31(a) (relief from late filing). These appeals are presently pending in the California Court of Appeal and are numbered 1/Criminal 5936 (appeal from the 1963 burglary conviction) and 1/Criminal 5937 (appeal from the 1965 narcotics and possession of a weapon conviction).

On September 19, 1966, the records on appeal were prepared and forwarded to appellant. His application for augmentation of the record on appeal was denied on October 21, 1966, as was his request to be provided with reference volumes and typing paper. Appellant filed an application for the appointment of counsel to represent him on appeal on August 18, 1967, and the Court of Appeal appointed William Simmons, Esq., to represent him.

(The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been convicted of the crime of murder in the State of California, and who are now in the State Prison, at the date of the report of the Board of Prison Commissioners, for the year ending June 30, 1900.)

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B. Proceedings in the Federal Court.

On May 17, 1967, appellant filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, Southern Division [No. 7266] and an order to show cause was issued. Appellee, respondent below, filed a return to that order on September 15, 1967. C. William Simmons, having previously been appointed to represent appellant in his appeal before the California Court of Appeal, was appointed by the United States District Court to represent appellant in further proceedings before that Court. Through his attorney appellant filed a traverse to our return on November 6, 1967, and a hearing on the order to show cause was held before the Honorable George B. Harris, United States District Judge, on November 17, 1967.

On December 6, 1967, the District Court denied the petition for writ of habeas corpus without prejudice to its renewal and discharged the order to show cause. The District Court concluded that the proper forum for the resolution of the issue raised by appellant is the California Court of Appeal by way of a renewed application for augmentation of his record on appeal.

Appellant, through his attorney, moved for a rehearing on the basis of the then recent United States Supreme Court case of Roberts v. LaVallee, 389 U.S. 40 (October 23, 1967). On January 2, 1968, the merits of this motion were argued before the District Court which denied appellant's motion for rehearing on January 16, 1968. Appellant applied

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The twelfth lecture was given by Mr. J. H. ...

For and was granted a certificate of probable cause to appeal.

ARGUMENT

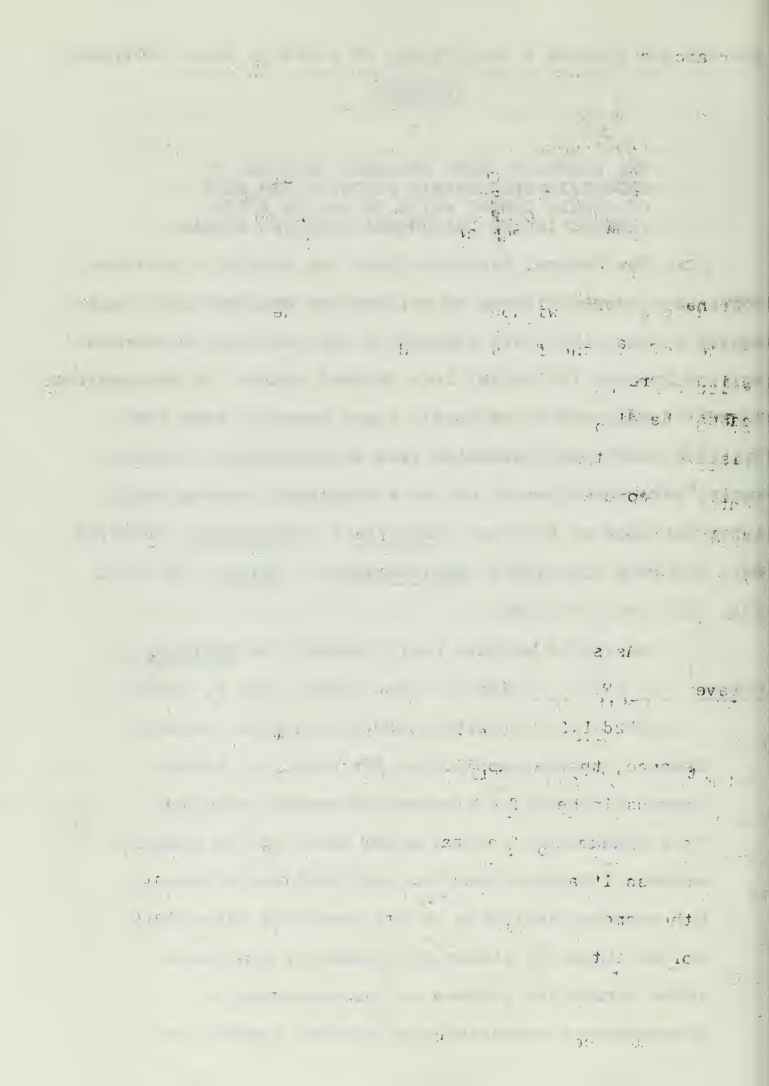
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THE DISTRICT COURT PROPERLY DECLINED TO ENTERTAIN APPELLANT'S PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS WHILE HE HAD AN APPEAL PENDING IN THE CALIFORNIA COURT OF APPEAL.

The Federal District Court may dismiss a petition for habeas corpus without an evidentiary hearing when, as a matter of law, the facts alleged in the petition do not constitute grounds for relief in a federal court. If the petition cannot be disposed of on purely legal grounds, then the District Court must determine from an examination of the entire record whether or not an evidentiary hearing would serve the ends of justice. Schlette v. California, 284 F.2d 27, 834 (9th Cir. 1960); Muhlenbraich v. Heinze, 281 F.2d 81, 883 (9th Cir. 1960).

As stated by this Court recently in Martinez v. Craven, ___ F.2d ___ (9th Cir. No. 22136, July 8, 1968):

"28 U.S.C. § 2254(b) and (c) provide, in substance, that an application for a writ of habeas corpus in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to a judgment of a state court shall not be granted unless it appears that the applicant has exhausted the remedies available in the courts of the state, or that there is either an absence of available state corrective process or the existence of circumstances rendering such process ineffective



to protect the rights of the prisoner, and that the applicant shall not be deemed to have exhausted the remedies available in the courts of the state if he has the right under the law of the state to raise, by any available procedure, the question presented."

ere, as in Martinez, at the time appellant filed his application for the writ he had a direct appeal from his conviction pending in the California Court of Appeal. Wherefore, appellee submits that appellant had not exhausted the remedies available to him in the courts of the State of California, and accordingly the District Court properly refused to consider his application until a proper motion for augmentation has been made in the California Court of Appeal.

II

APPELLANT'S REMAINING POINTS ON APPEAL ARE WITHOUT MERIT.

Appellant complains that he was ineffectively represented by C. William Simmons at the hearing held to determine whether or not an evidentiary hearing was required. Appellee submits that since the District Court is not constitutionally compelled to appoint counsel to represent petitioners in habeas corpus proceedings before the federal courts [Dorsey v. 111, 348 F.2d 857, 877, cert. denied 325 U.S. 890 (D.C. 1945); accord, Flowers v. Oklahoma, 356 F.2d 916, 917 (10th Cir. 1966)], appellant's contention that he was ineffectively

represented is without merit. ^{1/} Appellee submits that since the District Court declined to entertain appellant's petition on a question of law -- his existing state remedy -- the quality of representation afforded by C. William Simmons is immaterial to the issues raised in the present appeal. Furthermore, the record in this case reveals that this charge is baseless.

Appellant also complains of the District Court's failure to conform the order denying his petition with Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 52(a) which requires findings of fact and conclusions of law. The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure do not generally apply to habeas corpus proceedings Rule 81(a)(2); accord, Albert v. Patterson, 155 F.2d 429, 33 (1st Cir. 1946), cert. denied 329 U.S. 739; McCann v. Adams, 3 F.R.D. 396, 404 (D.C. N.Y. 1944)], and the District Court followed the procedure announced by this Court in Roberts v. United States, 341 F.2d 585, 587 (9th Cir. 1965), cert. denied 384 U.S. 979, by not applying Rule 52(a) to an order denying a petition for habeas corpus in the initial stage.

We submit that appellant's reliance on Roberts v. LaVallee, 389 U.S. 40 (1967) is misplaced. In LaVallee the

1. Compare, Dillon v. United States, 307 F.2d 445, 447-8 (9th Cir. 1962), wherein it was stated that unless a fair and meaningful hearing cannot be held without the aid of counsel because the presentation of the issue requires the ability to organize factual data or to call witnesses and elicit testimony there is no constitutional right to counsel in habeas corpus proceedings.

There, the record of the case is maintained, and the results of the investigation are reported to the Bureau.

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denial of a transcript of the preliminary hearing without pre-payment was held to go to the very fairness of the trial which resulted in a conviction affirmed on appeal. Thus, the most obvious distinguishing difference between LaVallee and the instant case is that LaVallee had exhausted his state remedy of direct appeal, whereas the only reason we are here in this case is that appellant has refused to perfect his direct appeal from his conviction in the California courts.

In the instant case, appellant has not been denied any transcripts because he is an indigent, but rather because he has not made a proper motion for augmentation, a motion which the California Court of Appeal has expressed a willingness to grant. Wherefore, appellee respectfully submits that the District Court properly denied appellant's petition without prejudice to its renewal if he is unable to secure relief in the California courts.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons it is respectfully submitted that the order of the District Court denying appellant's petition for writ of habeas corpus should be affirmed.

DATED: September 3, 1968.

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